

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/697,579

Examiner

Wilson Lee

Applicant(s)

SCHRIEVER ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/30/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

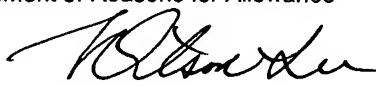
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 10/30/03, 8/5/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
Wilson Lee  
Primary Examiner  
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**Allowable subject matter**

Claims 1-30 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither discloses nor suggests the following limitations, in combination with the remaining elements required in claim 1:

A pressure measuring device and a control for maintaining a suitable operating pressure for the generation of the plasma extreme ultraviolet (EUV) radiation, and an energy monitor unit for detecting the pulse energy of the emitted radiation, the energy monitor unit having a feedback to the energy input for regulating a pulse-to-pulse stability of the energy emission of the plasma, a radiation diagnosis unit for analyzing the actual radiation characteristic of the radiation emitted from the plasma and generating result data of the diagnosis for influencing the excitation conditions for the plasma, and a main control unit for controlling a defined quality of the coupled out light bundle as radiation pulses of application-specific pulse repetition rate, average energy emission and radiation intensity such as required by claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nguyen et al. (6,610,169) discloses a processing system

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comprising a pressure sensor for sensing the air pressure inside the chamber but fails to disclose an energy monitor for detecting the pulse energy of the emitted radiation.

Serwazi et al. (6,549,555) discloses a gas performance control system for gas discharge lasers comprising an ASE (amplified spontaneous emission) sensor but fails to disclose a pressure measuring device and a control for maintaining suitable pressure.

Manos et al. (6,343,089) discloses a microwave driven ultraviolet light source comprising a means for monitoring the vacuum emission spectra but fails to disclose the means is able to monitoring the pulse energy data and a pressure monitoring means.

Borneis et al. (6,243,405) discloses a stabler excimer laser comprising a method for monitoring gas mixture status, pulse energy data and a control for adjusting the pressure and stabilizing the composition of the gas mixture but fails to disclose a pressure measuring device.

### **IDS**

References cited in IDS dated on 8/5/04 have been crossed through because they are the references duplicated from IDS dated 10/30/03.

### **Correspondence**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be

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considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

Wilson Lee  
Primary Examiner  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

12/13/04